

**LICENSES AND CONSUMER SERVICES
LICENSE INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

LICENSE NUMBER: L216-50159 **POLICE FILE NUMBER:** 13444

DATE OF APPLICATION: Oct. 2, 2013

INSPECTOR: Leanne Selander

APPLICANT/LEGAL ENTITY: Dilla's Bar & Restaurant, Inc.

DBA/TRADE NAME: Dilla's Ethiopian Restaurant

COMPLETE ADDRESS: 1813 Riverside Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN, 55454

CURRENT LICENSE: On-Sale Wine with Strong Beer, Class E

LICENSE REQUESTED: On-Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales, Class E

PUBLIC HEARING: Required.

LICENSE CONDITIONS: None required

NEIGHBORHOOD/WARD: Cedar Riverside, Ward 2

ZONING: The zoning division has certified that this is a permitted use in the C3A district.

7 ACRE REQUIREMENT: The property meets this requirement

OFF-STREET PARKING: No additional parking is required.

CHURCHES/SCHOOLS W/IN 300 FT OF THE PREMISES: None

SEATING: Inside: 58 Outside: NA

FIRE OCCUPANCY: 60

FOOD SERVICE REQ.: The restaurant must maintain a 60% food to 40% alcoholic beverage ratio.

HOURS OF OPERATION: INSIDE: 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM, daily. Alcohol will not be served before 10:00 AM on Sunday.
OUTSIDE: N/A

HISTORY OF LOCATION

This location has operated as a restaurant since at least 1992. In early 2011, the previous licensee was granted a Wine with Strong Beer license. In June of 2012, the

current owner applied for and was also granted a Wine with Strong Beer license. It has operated since as a full service, sit-down restaurant serving Ethiopian and American cuisine. Licensing has not received any complaints regarding operations.

When Dilla's originally applied in 2012, their goal was to open with a full liquor license; however, to accomplish this, the owners were required to add a 2nd exit door and a handicap-accessible restroom on the first floor. This has now been completed.

APPLICANT

The applicant remains the same: Dilla's Bar & Restaurant, Inc., with Beko Tufa as president and her daughter, Ayantu Tefera, as vice president and manager. They meet all minimum requirements including criminal background checks.

POLICE REVIEW Police Licensing and this Inspector have reviewed the expenses and source of funds reported in this application. The applicants have provided documentation showing adequate legal and traceable funding to complete the requirements for the upgrade. The Minneapolis Police 1st Precinct did not require that the applicant meet with them again because they had done so in 2012 and have had no problems since.

PREMISES

The original lease shows exclusive use of the premises by the applicant. The first floor occupies approximately 1,808 square feet with two dining areas, a kitchen, and a recently added unisex restroom. The dining area is approximately 800 square feet and includes tables, chairs, and a counter that seats five. The basement contains coolers, freezers, storage and prep areas, and the original two restrooms. The licensed premise is compact and contiguous, and there is no outdoor area.

BUSINESS/PLAN/OPERATIONS

Dilla's entertainment will remain the same: radio, TV, taped music, Karaoke and a Juke box. A Class E license does not allow live entertainment. The music that is played will not be played to a level that disturbs surrounding residents.

Because the premises is within 500 feet of residentially zoned property, Dilla's liquor sales cannot exceed 40% of their total sales. In addition, a bar is not allowed; their counter is for serving meals and/or waiting area. The owner has stated the establishment will not operate as a bar or club, but as a restaurant that serves alcoholic beverages along with meals.

The applicant's business plan mirrors last year's: All staff undergo mandatory alcohol server training, are trained not to admit underage or visibly intoxicated customers, instructed to immediately notify management and/or 911 in the event of an unruly customer, and monitor their surroundings to assure alcohol does not leave the premises. During business hours and at closing time, staff will monitor the parking lot adjacent to the business for any loitering and litter, and, if requested, escort customers to their car.

PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY A public hearing is required. On Oct. 25, 2013, 279 public hearing notices were mailed to residents and property owners within 600 feet of the premises. Notice was also provided via email to the council member, and neighborhood and business associations, and by posting at multiple hi-rise residences.

The public hearing was held on Monday, Nov. 4, 2013, at Augsburg College's Oren Gateway Center, 2211 Riverside Ave. The licensee, her landlord, and the executive director of the African Economic Development Solutions were present to answer concerns. Five residents attended. Three originally expressed concerns about full service alcohol being offered and the possible related criminal activity, but after having an opportunity to talk to the owner, they had no objections.

RECOMMENDATIONS The Licenses and Consumer Services Division recommends approving Dilla's Bar & Restaurant, Inc. for an On-Sale Liquor, Class E License.